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Senate **Honoring Our Armed Forces**

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I express my appreciation to Senator Lincoln and Senator Hutchison for making sure we had this opportunity again today to remember those who are serving and their families who are here supporting them and pulling for them and praying for them.

The video from the other side of the world—the visual images from the other side of the world over the last 24 hours are extraordinary to us all and, for the most part, they are encouraging. While many of us are troubled by the scenes of looting that occurred in parts of Baghdad yesterday, we will remember for many years the scene of the jubilation where people were realizing a time of oppression in their lives was coming to an end when the prospect for greater personal freedoms and liberties was denied. I know not everybody in this country and in this body supported the notion of our engaging in an armed conflict with Iraq at this time. We all, regardless of how we felt as we approached the day of decision, celebrate how well and effectively our men and women have served in that conflict. We regret the loss of life in that conflict.

I want to talk about two young men from my State for whom the last respects will be paid this Saturday as we lay them to rest. Before I do that, I was privileged to be Governor of Delaware for 8 years. One of the things I liked most about being Governor was, as an old Navy officer, they let me be chief of the Delaware Army National Guard. In the last several months, we have had the opportunity to send off unit after unit within the Delaware National Guard, to be mobilized and, in many cases, deployed and, in some cases, closer to home and, in other cases, to be sent to the other side of the world. I want to mention some of the work those men and women are doing. Some of them fly C-130 aircraft, which are part of the air bridge between America and the Middle East. The beginning of the air bridge, in many cases, is a C-5—we fly those out of Dover Air Force Base—which is the largest cargo aircraft in the world. They are being flown today by active-duty personnel and by the Reservists, and they fly very much as one team, one unit, literally as a wonderful, coordinated, combined team.

At the very end of the air bridge is, in many cases, the C-130s. They are flown by members of the Air National Guard out of Delaware, Alaska, Arkansas, Texas, and other States. Those men and women who are flying those, or maintaining those aircraft, or serving as military police, whether in this country or in the Middle East, and those people who are using heavy equipment, those who are providing health care—a number of those people come from my State of Delaware. They are male, female, officers, and enlisted. In many cases, they have left behind a spouse, children, their families, in order to serve us and, in some cases, they are doing so at great economic disadvantage to their families and, in some cases, at considerable danger to themselves.

We are grateful for their service. We are proud of each one of them. I say today to their family members—those who are tending the home fires and making sure the families stay together and the kids are going to school and are getting fed and clothed and all—a real special thank you for your willingness to share with us at a challenging time in our Nation your sons, daughters, husbands, wives, moms, and dads.

At the Dover Air Force Base, we traditionally carry a lot of the materiel and men and women who need to go around the world in support of our military actions. During the Afghanistan war, roughly 30 percent of the equipment that moved into Afghanistan in support of that conflict came through Dover

Air Force Base and flew out on C-5s from there. We are continuing to carry a large part of the strategic airlift burden from Dover and places like Travis and other Air Force bases around the country.

There is another unit stationed at the Dover Air Force Base that gets probably even more attention these days than do the C-5 aircraft, and that unit is the mortuary. We hear almost every day of the remains of American soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, that are being returned to America and to their loved ones. En route to their loved ones, those remains come through the Dover Air Force Base and the mortuary there. I visited there last month and also in the past. While the people who work there get precious little recognition for the work they do, they do some of the toughest work of anybody in this country—military or civilian.

I stand here today and take my hat off to those men and women. Some are active duty, some Reservists, and others have volunteered for the service. But there is no more emotionally demanding and draining work that you or I could do for our service men and women and their families. I really want to express my gratitude—and, I know, that of every Member of this body—for the work going on there at this moment.

Among the bodies that have been returned to their loved ones through that Air Force base in Dover through the mortuary are two young men, one 21 years of age from

Seaford, DE, Army Ranger SP Ryan Long. Another is a young marine sergeant from New Castle, DE, who grew up in New Jersey and came to Delaware when he went to high school and married his high school sweetheart. He perished last week at the age of 23 on the other side of the world. His name is Brian McGinnis. As our Presiding Officer knows, one of the toughest tasks we do as Senators is to call families of those who have died and try to convey to them our anguish, grief, and our sympathy, and offer whatever we can to be supportive and encouraging in this tough time. As a father of two young boys myself, 13 and 14, I cannot imagine the difficulty of living with the loss of your child. Life prepares us to know that some day our grandparents will pass away, and eventually our parents, and maybe our siblings, and maybe even a spouse; but there is little in this life to prepare us to know that we are going to lose a child.

In this case, the Long family and the McGinnis family have lost their sons. They will be laid to rest this Saturday in the First State, Delaware.

I wish to mention the service of each of them. Ryan Long comes from a family that has served in our military for generations. He is fourth generation. While at Seaford High School, he was vice commander of the junior Navy ROTC unit. He ended up joining the Army and became a ranger.

He was at a checkpoint barely a week ago in an area

northwest of Baghdad. A car driven by a woman went through that checkpoint. Out of that car emerged another woman who appeared to be pregnant. She came out of the car screaming, and three Army personnel approached the car. The car exploded, and the driver, the woman who had fled from the car, and our three Army personnel, including Ryan Long, were killed. The soldiers approached that car believing there was a problem and attempted to extend a helping hand. For that, they lost their lives.

I am sorry to say that the Ryan family has lost their son. To Rudy and Donna Long—I had the privilege of speaking with the dad who is a retired major—we extend our heartfelt sympathy.

Seaford is the home of the first nylon plant ever built. It is the first ever built in the world. Ryan used to play golf at the Seaford Nylon DuPont Country Club. He played on the golf team at school and did a lot of other activities in the community before he enlisted in the Army.

In the northern part of our State, there is a beautiful little town called New Castle. It has the largest high school in our State, the William Penn High School. Brian McGinnis went to William Penn High School, having grown up in New Jersey earlier in his life. At that school, Brian met a gal named Megan. He did not just meet her, he married her after school. He leaves behind a widow, a dad who lives in New Jersey, Bill McGinnis, and a mom,

Mildred Williams, who now lives in Port Charlotte, FL.

Brian was flying a helicopter. The helicopter, as we have seen too often in this war—any aircraft, whether fixed wing or rotary—crashed. He was aboard the helicopter, a Huey, and his life was lost. He will be buried this Saturday in New Castle, DE.

I send to his dad with whom I have spoken, to his mom, and to Megan, his bride, our sympathies. My office, my staff is doing whatever we can to be of help and support to them. We remember them today. We feel their anguish. Our hope is time will heal some of that pain. Again, we stand ready to provide whatever assistance and comfort we can throughout our State of Delaware to help the two families who have lost their loved ones.

I close with a comment on the war itself. Many of us have said the toughest part of the war lies ahead. There is still fighting to take place in other parts of the country that are not under allied control. The tough part of the war does lie ahead. It is not just keeping the peace and restoring order in places such as Baghdad and to stop the looting, but it is helping to build a democratic institution within a country where there are disparate groups—Shiites, Sunnis, and the Kurds in the North.

There is a history of distrust and hatred. We need to help put to bed those generations of mistrust. That is not going to be an easy job. It is not a job we and the Brits should

assume. This is a job which others should join in fulfilling, tackling, and also paying. We should welcome their involvement.